

GRAHAM 

Renfrewshire Council

Clyde Waterfront & Renfrew Riverside

/ Social Impact /

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Social Impact

contributors:
Gary Redpath
 Social Impact
 Business Partner

Funded through the Glasgow City Region Deal the project is creating an attractive waterfront area and connecting communities through the construction of an opening road bridge over the River Clyde at Renfrew. The two-lane bridge will accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists and open for passing ships, spanning 184 metres from Renfrew to the boundary between Glasgow and West Dunbartonshire.

 **Social Economic Return on Investment:**
£20,568,678.20

Client Targets and Outcomes

Meet the Buyer Event	New Entrant Priority Group	New Entrant Apprentice	New Entrant Graduate	Work Experience Placements	Site Visits	Vocational Training Opportunities	Structured Careers Events
							
Target 1 Achieved	Target 4 Achieved	Target 4 Achieved	Target 2 Achieved	Target 10 Achieved	Target 6 Achieved	Target 40 Achieved	Target 8 Achieved
1	5	4	5	15	21	53	16

Targets & Outcomes

Activity	Achievement
Meet The Buyer Event	1
Total Number of Apprentices	4
Apprentice Investment	£74,615.32
Total Number of Apprentices Weeks	333
Local Employment Opportunities	32 (FTE)
Local Employment Opportunities Investments	£975,291
Education Support Initiatives	170 Staff Hours, 1009 students engaged
Total No of Work Placements Opportunities	16 Work Placements over 37 weeks
Employability Support Investment	£15,403
Persons Supported on Employability Support Initiatives	59
Community Investment	£34,129.76
Total Local Supply Chain Spend	£29,375,950

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Case Study Profile

Shona McCrea

Trainee Site Engineer

The Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project will bring over 100 community benefit commitments including several employment and apprenticeship opportunities for local people.

Local resident, Shona McCrea was successful in securing the role of Trainee Site Engineer at GRAHAM in October 2021, a role created from the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside Project.

Shona is undertaking a Graduate Apprenticeship (GA) in Civil Engineering studying at the University of the West of Scotland. As a GA student, Shona can integrate her academic learning with her workplace activities and demonstrate the application of her knowledge, skills, and understanding in a professional environment.



"My new post at GRAHAM is fantastic and it is great to be working on such an exciting project. The ground investigation work that I am currently involved in as part of the new bridge construction project is allowing me to apply my learning from the Geotechnical module I am currently studying."

Shona McCrea, Trainee Site Engineer

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From work experience to an apprenticeship

Hope McCrory

Administrative Assistant



Hope was introduced to GRAHAM through a school visit and was intrigued to find out more about working in construction. Studying Business Administration a work placement for one day a week

for eight weeks. Becoming an integral part of the team, Hope was offered an Administration Assistant role and enrolled on as SVQ Level 6 qualification in Business Administration delivered by Renfrewshire Council.



"It was the appeal of learning and working at the same time I found really exciting. I hadn't considered construction, but I have enjoyed being part of this project".

Hope McCrory, Administration Assistant



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Meet Greg Irving - Apprentice Quantity Surveyor

Greg began his career with GRAHAM 3½ years ago, stepping into the world of construction straight from high school. Inspired by a visit from Gary Redpath GRAHAM Social Impact Business Partner, who spoke passionately about the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside (CWRR) project and the apprenticeship opportunities available, Greg saw a unique chance to contribute to a major infrastructure development in his hometown.

Today, Greg works as an Apprentice Quantity Surveyor, supporting the commercial team in managing subcontract packages, cost forecasting, and cost reporting. His role is dynamic and varied—no two days are the same, and each day presents new opportunities to learn and grow.

Throughout his apprenticeship, Greg has developed a strong foundation in time management, attention to detail, and commercial data analysis. These skills have not only enhanced his professional capabilities but also boosted his personal confidence and drive to continually improve.

Greg takes great pride in his contribution to the CWRR project, recognising its significance to the local community and the impact it has had on his own development. His experience has shaped his career ambitions, motivating him to pursue chartership with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and continue progressing within the Quantity Surveying profession.



“Being part of the CWRR project has been a huge source of pride for me. It’s not just a job—it’s a chance to make a real impact in my hometown while building a career I’m passionate about.”

Greg, Apprentice Quantity Surveyor



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Educational Engagement

University of Strathclyde visit CWRR

Working closely with education providers in the Glasgow City Region, hosting over 20 site visits, Strathclyde University attended for the second time to check out the progress of the project.

With 31 Civil Engineering students in attendance Section Engineers, Alister Milne and Duncan Short provided an overview of the construction plans of the project and held a Q&A session before taking the students on a tour of the site.



Park Mains High School STEM Site Visit

The project team welcomed pupils from Park Mains High School to our Meadowside Street site in Renfrew. GRAHAM works closely with local schools to promote STEM careers, utilising the skills, experience, and knowledge of our staff to guide the future workforce.

Pupils from Park Mains enjoyed an advice and guidance session on STEM careers, delivered by our on-site STEM Ambassador, Rian Marsh, Site Engineer. Following the session, pupils were invited on a tour of the CWRR site to gain a better understanding of how a live site operates. Rian Marsh provided an in-depth overview of the construction plans for this iconic project.

Tom Selby, a Health and Safety Adviser, underscored the critical importance of maintaining health and safety standards on active work sites. He pointed out various hazards, including falls, accidents involving heavy machinery, and exposure to dangerous substances. Selby stressed that adhering to safety protocols and using personal protective equipment (PPE) are essential measures to create a secure working environment and prevent accidents.

Pupils who have shown an interest in STEM careers will now be invited to participate in a work placement, taking the next step towards a career in construction.

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Educational Engagement

Renfrew Bridge Backs Youth Bowls at Yoker Bowling Club

The project team is proud to support Yoker Bowling Club as they prepare for the upcoming lawn bowls season, through the sponsorship of a brand-new club strip.

Well-established in the Yoker community, the team has a strong track record of supporting local groups throughout the life of the project. When Yoker Bowling Club reached out for help launching their new Youth Bowls Academy, we were inspired by their commitment to engaging young people in sport and community life.

In response, we were delighted to provide sponsorship for the club's new team strip, helping to give the youth academy a fresh and professional look as they enter the new season.

Gary Earl, Club President, shared his appreciation:

"The new strips have given the team a real confidence boost going into the season. Our youth academy members are absolutely thrilled — a huge thanks to GRAHAM for making this happen!"

This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting grassroots sport and fostering opportunities for young people in the communities we serve.



Invest in Renfrewshire

GRAHAM are committed to working with local employability partners such as Invest in Renfrewshire to ensure residents who have an interest in pursuing a career within the construction sector have access to site employment opportunities. Invest in Renfrewshire provide training, employability and job search support for residents of Renfrew and have become an important delivery partner on the project.

GRAHAM welcomed staff and clients of Invest in Renfrewshire's training academy to our newly established site on Meadowside Street, Renfrew. The visitors enjoyed an overview of the project and a careers in construction presentation before heading out to site to gain a better understanding of how a live site operates. GRAHAM and Invest in Renfrewshire will now work together to progress all who attended the site visit towards gaining their CSCS Cards and secure work placements on the CWRR project in preparation of starting their careers in construction.



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Educational Engagement

Building Bridges with the Local Community

Staff from the project visited a number of primary schools in the Clydebank and Renfrew area's providing local pupils with the opportunity to engage in some exciting early career interventions. The events saw enthusiastic participation from pupils who were eager to learn and explore the world of engineering.

The highlight of the sessions was a hands-on challenge where students were tasked with building model bridges. Guided by GRAHAM's STEM Ambassadors, the pupils learned about the principles of bridge design, including concepts such as load distribution, structural integrity and material selection. The young engineers worked in teams, fostering collaboration and problem solving skills as they constructed their bridges using various materials provided by the company.



"It was amazing to see our bridge stand up. I learned that teamwork is important in engineering. I want to do more projects like this!"

Sophie, Primary 6



"I loved building the bridge with my friends! It was so cool to see how we could make its strong enough to hold weight. I think I want to be an engineer now!"

Emily, Primary 6:



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Supporting our local communities



Community Litter Pick-Up Stream Battle

During site investigation work for the Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside project, litter and plastics being discarded along the River Clyde were highlighted by our site team as an issue that was having a damaging impact on the walkway and river with most of the plastics and litter eventually ending up in the Clyde.

Working in collaboration, the Social Impact and Environmental team reached out to Up Stream Battle a voluntary organisation that focus on maintaining the River Clyde to arrange a GRAHAM community tidy-up.

On the day of the event, ten members of staff from various roles across our Building and Civils division participated in the tidy-up. Engineers, apprentices, and support staff all pulled together to tackle litter around the Yoker Ferry area of Glasgow resulting in thirty bags of litter being removed from the Clydeside.

Supporting the Community - Albion Social Club Improvements

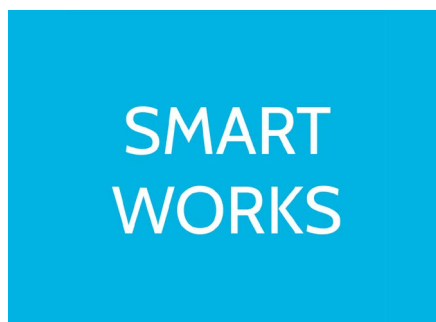
The project team helped improve the local social club used by many charities and residents in the Yoker area. The Albion Social Club had started to make improvements to the club grounds with the help of volunteers, but due to limited resources and the scale of the task at hand, GRAHAM supported the club to ensure the bowling green area and car park were clear and operational for residents to enjoy the coming season.



CWRR supports Smart Works

Smart Works Charity, Edinburgh provides employability support to unemployed women wishing to return to the workplace, through training, confidence-building, and clothing for interviews.

Smart Works reached out to GRAHAM for assistance in setting up their new premises in Glasgow and GRAHAM were delighted to get involved.



CWRR welcomes Park Mains High School

Working closely with local schools to promote STEM careers, utilising the skills, experience and knowledge of our staff to inspire the future generation.

Pupils from Park Mains High School, Renfrew enjoyed an advice and guidance session followed by a site tour, to gain a better understanding of how a live site operates.





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